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info  
for  
Vatican  
affairs*

ADMINISTRATION OF VATICAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(In these notes "Foreign Affairs" are confined to political or quasi-political matters and do not include strictly religious subjects.)

Pope Pius XII

The Pope personally and immediately directs the Vatican's foreign affairs.

(With a background of a long career in the Vatican diplomatic service the present Pope is well-qualified in foreign affairs. First he served a long period at the Vatican Secretariate of State, then for 12 years was Nuncio in Bavaria and Germany, and finally was Secretary of State to Pope Pius XI for ten years.)

....., Cardinal Secretary of State. (Post is vacant.)

At present the duties are divided between the two assistants.

(The post of Secretary of State is less important under the present Pope than at times in the past when Secretaries of State handled the Vatican's foreign affairs with little supervision from the Pope.)

S.E.R. Mons. Domenico Sardini, Secretary for Extraordinary Affairs

S.E.R. Mons. Giovanni Battista Montini, "Sostituto" for Ordinary Affairs and Secretary of the Cipher

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In addition to the Secretariate of State, which is an office of the Vatican, foreign affairs are handled by four congregations, or administrative agencies headed by a committee of Cardinals. Reports from abroad are channeled through the Secretariate of State and then are turned over to the particular Congregation concerned. Likewise outgoing messages go through the Secretariate of State.

Office of Secretariate of State:

The Cardinal Secretary of State

Two chief assistants (mentioned above), respectively  
heads of Section I, Extraordinary Affairs, and Section  
II, Ordinary Affairs.

Mons. Domenico Spada, chief of Section III, Apostolic  
Briefs (certain types of Vatican documents)

Congregation of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs:

The Cardinal Secretary of State, Prefect  
Eleven other Cardinal members of the Congregation

S.E.R. Mons. Domenico Tardini, Secretary

Mons. Silvio Sericano, Under-secretary

Six consultors

The identical staff of officials of Section I,  
Extraordinary Affairs of the Secretariate of State

The Secretariate of State handles general Vatican foreign  
communications, especially with Nuncios.

The Congregation of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs  
is in charge of official diplomatic matters with foreign  
governments including topics included in concordates and  
civil regulations affecting Vatican interests or religion.

The Vatican has Nuncios in the following countries--

Argentina  
Belgium  
Bolivia  
Brazil  
Chile  
Columbia  
Costarica  
Cuba  
Ecuador  
Estonia (post vacant)  
France  
Germany  
Guatemala  
Haiti  
Honduras  
Ireland  
Italy

Yugoslavia  
Lattonia (post vacant)  
Liberia (post vacant)  
Lithuania (post vacant)  
Luxembourg  
Nicaragua  
Holland  
Panama  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Poland  
Portugal  
Dominican Republic  
Romania  
Salvador  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Switzerland  
Hungary  
Uruguay  
Venezuela

**Consistorial Congregation:**

The Pope, Prefect  
Cardinal Raffaello Carlo Rossi, Secretary  
Ten other Cardinal members of the Congregation  
S.E.R. Mons. Benedetto Renzoni, Assessor  
Mons. Giuseppe Ferratto, Sostituto

The Consistorial Congregation has charge of Church affairs  
in the following countries where the Vatican is represented  
by an Apostolic Delegate--

Canada & Newfoundland  
Philippine Islands  
Great Britain  
Mexico  
United States of America

**Congregation for the Oriental Church:**

The Pope, Prefect  
Cardinal Eugenio Tisserant, Secretary  
Sixteen other Cardinal members of the Congregation  
S.E.R. Mons. Antonio Arata, Assessor  
Mons. Giovanni Bosco, Sostituto

The Congregation for the Oriental Church has charge of Church affairs in the following areas where the Vatican is represented by an Apostolic Delegate--

Ethiopia  
Bulgaria  
Egypt & Arabia  
Greece  
Iran  
Iraq  
Syria  
Turkey (post-vacant)

Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith:

Cardinal Pietro Pumasoni Biondi, Prefect  
Twenty other Cardinal members of the Congregation  
S.E.R. Mons. Celso Costantini, Secretary  
Mons. Giulio Chiavoni, Under-secretary

The Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith has charge of activities in the following areas where the Vatican is represented by an Apostolic Delegate--

Africa  
Albania  
Australasia  
China  
Japan  
India  
Indo-china

Russia---

The Catholics in Russia who worship with an Eastern Rite of the Catholic Church are under the Congregation for the Oriental Church; those who use the Latin rite are under the Congregation of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs. All general affairs concerning Russia are handled and studied by a special

Pontifical Commission for Russia (S.E.R. Mons. Tardini, president, Antonio Arata, Alfredo Ottaviani, Giovanni Battista Montini.)

SOURCES: Annuario Pontificio 1945 and several clergymen.

